# THE CORRELATION BETWEEN SELF-ESTEEM, UNIVERSITY COMMITMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE FINAL YEAR OF THEIR DEGREE

WAEL SAHDO KHARSAH

# **MASTER OF SCIENCE**

# **UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG**



### SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have checked this thesis and in my opinion, this thesis is adequate in terms of scope and quality for the award of the degree of Master of Science at the Centre for Modern Languages and Human Sciences.

(Supervisor's Signature)
Name of Supervisor : DR. FATMAWATI BINTI LATADA
Position : SENIOR LECTURER/ HEAD OF SOFT SKILLS
Date :



### **STUDENT'S DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citation which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang or any other institutions.

(Author's Signature)
Full Name : WAEL SAHDO KHARSAH
ID Numb : MBC14001
Date :

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2017

#### Dedication

То

## My Dear Mother and Father

In Recognition of Their Worth, Love, and Respect

As Well This Thesis is Dedicated to My Lovely Wife WAED and Our

Loving Son SAAD AL DEEN

AND

Loving daughter MASAH

For Their Unending Moral Support and Encouragement

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WAEL SAHDO KHARSAH

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GPA	Grade Point Average
OC	Organisational Commitment
RSES	Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale
SE	Self-Esteem
UC	University Commitment
IMS	Integrated Management System

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#### ABSTRACT

Factors that affect students' academic performance are not limited to university lecturers, staff, peers, activities and the syllabus. Demographic factors such as family background, as well as students' self-esteem and university commitment affect academic performance. Thus it is very important to reveal how students' self-esteem and students' university commitment are related to students' academic performance. The appreciation of oneself or the lack of it, and commitment can show observable signs that could help learners to improve themselves to achieve better performance. The specific objectives of the study sought to 1- determine the relationship between selfesteem and academic performance among undergraduate students at the final year of their degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 2- determine the relationship between university commitment and academic performance among undergraduate students at the final year of their degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 3- determine the relationship between self-esteem and university commitment among undergraduate students at the final year of their degree at Universiti Malaysia Pahang. To achieve these three objectives, the study used the quantitative method. Participants for this study were 387 undergraduate students from Universiti Malaysia Pahang at the final year of their degree. The selected variable of self-esteem was measured using the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES), while university commitment was measured by using Brittany Davis's Scale (2014), which was derived from Allen and Meyer's Model (1990), and students' academic performance was measured by the university students' grade point average (GPA). The variables investigated in this research were chosen through Maslow's Theory of Needs (1954). Data was gathered using questionnaires which measured their self-esteem, university commitment, and academic performance. The scores for the level of self-esteem was obtained based on the positive items method rather than the negative items method, as well as the reliability of the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale improvement. The results showed: positive, significant relationships were found between self-esteem and academic performance, as well as between self-esteem and students' university commitment. By contrast, there was no significant relationship between students' university commitment and academic performance. In order to analyse the data, the Pearson Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regression Analysis were utilised. The results from the Pearson Correlation Coefficient showed a significant relationship between self-esteem and academic performance, but no correlation between university commitment and academic performance. Furthermore, the Multiple Regression Analysis revealed that the component of self-esteem was found to be able to predict the level of academic performance, while the component of university commitment was not found to be able to predict the level of academic performance of the students

#### ABSTRAK

Faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi prestasi akademik pelajar tidaklah terhad kepada pensyarah dan staf universiti, rakan sebaya, aktiviti dan silibus. Faktor-faktor demografik seperti latar belakang keluarga serta harga diri pelajar dan komitmennya mempengaruhi prestasi akademik. Maka, adalah sangat penting bagi pengkaji untuk mendedahkan bagaimana harga diri pelajar dan komitmennya kepada universiti berhubung kait dengan prestasi akademik. Wujud atau tidak wujudnya harga diri seseorang dan komitmennya dapat memberi petunjuk yang dapat dicerap dalam membantu pelajar untuk memperbaiki diri mereka untuk mencapai prestasi yang lebih baik. Objektif-objektif spesifik kajian ini ialah untuk: 1- mengenal pasti hubung kait antara harga diri dan komitmen kepada universiti dengan prestasi akademik pelajar tahun akhir program Sarjana Muda Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 2- mengenalpasti hubung kait antara komitmen kepada universiti dan prestasi akademik pelajar tahun akhir program Sarjana Muda Universiti Malaysia Pahang, 3- mengenalpasti hubung kait antara harga diri dan komitmen kepada universiti pelajar tahun akhir program Sarjana Muda Universiti Malaysia Pahang. Kajian menggunakan kaedah kuantitatif bagi mencapai tiga objektif tersebut. Seramai 387 orang pelajar tahun akhir program Sarjana Muda Universiti Malaysia Pahang telah mengambil bahagian di dalam kajian ini. Pembolehubah terpilih telah diukur menggunakan Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (RSES) bagi harga diri, manakala komitmen kepada universiti diukur pula dengan menggunakan Brittany Davis's Scale (2014) yang diperolehi daripada Allen and Meyer's Model (1990). Prestasi akademik pelajar pula diukur menggunakan purata nilai gred pelajar (PNG). Pembolehubah yang diselidik di dalam kajian ini dipilih berdasarkan Maslow's Theory of Needs (1954). Data telah dikumpul menggunakan borang soal selidik yang mengukur harga diri, komitmen dan prestasi akademik mereka. Skor tahap harga diri diperolehi berdasarkan kaedah item positif dan bukannya kaedah item negatif, serta kebolehpercayaan pada penambahbaikan Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale. Dapatan menunjukkan bahawa: terdapat hubung kait positif dan signifikan di antara harga diri dan prestasi akademik. Begitu juga hubung kait antara harga diri dan komitmen pelajar kepada universiti. Sebaliknya, tiada terdapat hubung kait signifikan antara komitmen pelajar kepada universiti dan prestasi akademik mereka. Bagi menjalankan analisa ke atas data yang diperolehi, Pearson Correlation Coefficient dan Multiple Regression Analysis telah digunakan. Keputusan daripada Pearson Correlation Coefficient menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubung kait signifikan antara harga diri dan prestasi akademik, tetapi tiada hubung kait antara komitmen kepada universiti dan prestasi akademik. Tambahan pula, Multiple Regression Analysis mendedahkan bahawa komponen harga diri dapat menjangka tahap pretasi akademik, manakala komponen komitmen kepada universiti tidak dapat menjangka tahap prestasi akademik pelajarpelajar tersebut.

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